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Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department for
Libraries and Archives

September 2008

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Prime Time Family Reading Time



**Prime Time Family
Reading Time,**
sponsored by the
Kentucky Department for
Libraries and Archives

Dear Friends of Libraries and Archives,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Libraries & Archives Monthly - our first electronic newsletter. This is such an exciting time for libraries and archives across Kentucky as we are serving more people in more ways than ever before. Libraries & Archives Monthly is designed to spread news of our services to professionals in our field, customers and potential customers, library trustees, funders, government officials, and interested parties across Kentucky.

Let us hear your ideas for Libraries & Archives Monthly. We look forward to sharing your good news with others across the commonwealth while we strengthen support for our libraries and archives.

Wayne

Wayne Onkst
State Librarian & Commissioner

WPA Records Provide a Window to the Past

With the coming of the Great Depression in the 1930's, the federal government instituted several public programs that offered some relief to people in need. Perhaps the most successful of these projects was the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA provided jobs for eight and half million Americans, about 40 percent of the



(KDLA) and the Kentucky Humanities Council (KHC), is a six-week reading, discussion and storytelling program held at public libraries. A university scholar and a storyteller (who act as discussion leaders) conduct weekly storytelling and discussion sessions based on award-winning children's picture books. Participants are elementary age children and their families.

What Does Prime Time Do? It reinforces the role of family as a major social and economic unit; it trains parents and children to bond together around the act of reading; it teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics such as fairness, greed, honor, and deceit; it encourages low-literacy, low-income parents to enter or continue their own educational programs; it helps parents and children learn how to select books and become active library users. Prime Time is a powerful tool to stimulate communication between children and parents.

At least eight public libraries will be selected by KDLA/KAC to host a Prime Time Family Reading Time program in 2009. **Applications are due September 30.** For more information contact Kathleen Pool at kathleen.pool@uky.edu

Photo: Parents and children participate in literacy activities during Prime Time

unemployed, during its eight year existence. The WPA was terminated with the onset of World War II, as the draft and the wartime economy made the program increasingly unnecessary.

Many of the records of the state-level activities of the WPA in Kentucky are available at the State Archives. The collection contains records from the Office of the State Administrator, the Division of Employment, and several offices within the Division of Community Service, including the Historical Records Survey and the Writers' Project. [Read more...](#)

Photo: Kentucky Coal Miner, WPA Collection, State Archives

Just for State Government Employees

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' website, www.kdla.ky.gov includes the feature "**Just for Kentucky's State Government Workers...**" It provides links to services designed to help state government employees with their information and training needs.

[Ask a Librarian](#) is an email consultation service designed to help state employees with questions related to work, including in-depth research, quick reference look-up and obtaining materials from other libraries.

[Access to Electronic Databases](#) is provided through the State Library to state employees' computer workstations at work and at home.

[Read more...](#)

Innovative Children's Librarian Retires

For 27 years, children's librarian Kathy Crawford read, sang and danced her way through her workdays. She recently retired from the LaRue County Public Library after countless story hours for babies and toddlers and summer reading programs for children, tweens and teens.



Crawford began her career at the library as a volunteer,

Family Reading Time.

Trustee Tip

Being a Trustee for a public library is truly a wonderful experience. You not only have the opportunity to help shape your community through your library, but you also have a chance for growth both personally and professionally with the opportunities afforded by the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) and the Kentucky Library Association (KLA).

I'm going to use this space to share with Trustees across Kentucky some of the things I've done to better prepare myself to be the best Trustee I can be for my library - the Scott County Public Library in Georgetown, Kentucky.

I also plan to pass along ideas from other Trustees about how they prepared for the responsibility of guiding their library to be a major player within their communities. Please contact me for any suggestions you would like to share.

Hopefully this will be an opportunity for all of us to learn something and share ideas so we can do the best job possible with our respective libraries.

Paul M. Poland
President, Board of
Trustees
Scott County Public Library
pmpoland@roadrunner.com

then joined the staff as a bookmobile librarian. It was when she became the children's librarian that she found her calling. "It was truly meant to be," she said. "I could have never sat down and written a job description for something that would be more uplifting or rewarding than what I've done for the past 27 years." [Read more...](#)

Photo: Smokey the Bear attends the 2008 LaRue County Public Library Teddy Bear Picnic with pal Kathy Crawford

Archival Research Focus of Kentucky Archives Institute

Opportunities for historical and genealogical research were showcased at the 24th annual Kentucky Archives Institute. The Institute offered participants a chance to increase their ability to effectively use Kentucky's public records.



The event, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, included sessions on Kentucky state, local and judicial records. Also featured were sessions on conducting research with state military records; Kentucky records in the Works Progress Administration (WPA) housed at the State Archives, and genealogical and historical sources at the Filson Historical Society. [Read more...](#)

Photo: Ron Elliott, author of [Through the Eyes of Lincoln](#), speaks at the 2008 Kentucky Archives Institute.

CREATE YOUR OWN READ 'MINI'-POSTER

Visit [READ Mini-Poster](#) to create and print your own READ name badges, mini-posters, thank-you cards, etc.

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives provides equitable access to quality library and information resources and services, as well as helps public agencies ensure that legislatively mandated documentation of government programs is created, effectively maintained and made accessible. For more information

Quick Links
[American Library Association](#)
[Kentucky Library Association](#)
[Register for Widening Circles 2008 \(Due 8/30/08\)](#)

on KDLA resources, programs and services visit www.kdla.ky.gov or call 502-564-8300.

We welcome your comments and story/jpeg photo submissions; please send to editor Paige Sexton at paige.sexton@ky.gov.

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KDLA is an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet
 Helen Mountjoy, Secretary

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Many of the records of the state-level activities of the WPA in Kentucky are available at the State Archives. The collection contains records from the Office of the State Administrator, the Division of Employment, and several offices within the Division of Community Service, including the Historical Records Survey and the Writers' Project.

The purpose of the WPA was not just to provide work for the unemployed, but to find jobs that fit their skills, education and experience. Since writers often had a very difficult time finding a position requiring their talents and abilities, the WPA created the Writers' Project, which paid authors and journalists to chronicle the history of each state. The Writers' Project files are particularly relevant to researchers interested in social and cultural history, and to genealogists.

The "American Guide" section of the records of the Writers' project is arranged by county. Each file contains historical, statistical and reference information about that county. The Powell County file, for example, describes the first hotel erected in the county seat of Stanton in 1852, and includes the price for a room (10 cents) and a hot meal (50 cents). Many of the county files also contain personal narratives, which might include general reminiscences of life in the past or stories and folklore passed along from generation to generation.

The WPA collection also contains over 800 original photographs depicting life in Kentucky during the late 1930's and early 1940's. These photos cover a wide range of subjects, including agriculture, architecture, coal mining, horses, parks, and recreational activities.

The records and photos of the WPA collection provide a rich source of information that would be unavailable elsewhere, and offers a unique glimpse of the people and events from an important period in Kentucky history.

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[Access to Electronic Databases](#) is provided through the State Library to state employees' computer workstations at work and at home.

[State Library Training](#) links to a training calendar listing live online classes featuring information of the State Library's resources and services. Pre-recorded sessions are available for those state government employees with busy schedules.

[Recommended Resource Lists](#) offer listings of training resources (audiobooks, books, DVD's and websites) created in cooperation with several agency training courses, including the Governmental Services Center, the Kentucky Employees Assistance Program and the Kentucky Safety Program.

[State Government Publications](#) gives links to the State Publications Database and the Electronic Records Archives (e-Archives). KDLA has been the official repository for Kentucky state agency publications since 1958 and has over 45,000 state publications.

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Crawford began her career at the library as a volunteer, then joined the staff as a bookmobile librarian. It was when she became the children's librarian that she found her calling. "It was truly meant to be," she said. "I could never have sat down and written a job description for something that would be more uplifting or rewarding than what I've done for the last 27 years."

Over the span of her career, 'Miss Kathy' went to any length to engage children and share her love of reading. From wearing a gorilla suit to wearing a clothes dryer hose over her head to impersonate an elephant, her activities were designed to draw children in, and it worked.

"There's no doubt that Kathy would try anything if she believed it would motivate a

child to read and love reading," said Carol Baughman, Children's and Youth Services consultant for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. "She is among the most innovative librarians in the state."

One of Crawford's most notable accomplishments was the establishment of the annual Teddy Bear Picnic, a popular event organized in 1981, where children bring a favorite stuffed animal, share lunch with their parents, listen to stories and enjoy various activities. The picnic also includes a celebration of the library's summer reading program.

The 2008 event was particularly meaningful, bringing a crowd of approximately 300 together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the picnic and their beloved Miss Kathy - who didn't miss a single picnic. Among the crowd were several great-grandchildren of attendees of the very first Teddy Bear Picnic. The event was a fitting testimony to Crawford's success in instilling a life-long love of reading in 'her kids'.

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Featured speakers included Ron Elliott, author of "Through the Eyes of Lincoln"; James Holmberg, the Filson Historical Society; Kandie Adkinson, Kentucky's Secretary of State Land Office; Brandon Slone, Military Records and REsearch Library, Department of Military Affairs; and Walter Bowman and David Kirkpatrick, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

Plans are already underway for the 2009 Institute. Watch for an announcement in the new year.

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